



## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Targeting immigrant and refugee communities violates human rights, American values** *The Advocates for Human Rights responds to White House executive orders on immigration*

Minneapolis, MN (January 25, 2017) --- Today's White House announcement of executive orders on immigration undermine fundamental human rights and put refugee and immigrant communities at risk.

The Advocates for Human Rights is deeply troubled by today's orders and by orders expected to be signed later this week aimed at Muslim refugees and immigrants.

"The executive actions take aim at our immigrant and refugee communities," says Robin Phillips, executive director of The Advocates for Human Rights. "This is discrimination. Targeting people because of who they are or what they believe, not what they have done, violates the most fundamental principles of human rights and undermines the values of the United States' Constitution."

Today's action by the White House continues policies of mandatory detention and prosecution of asylum seekers, punishes cities for protecting due process and prioritizing community safety over immigration politics, and dramatically expands federal immigration enforcement agencies. Tomorrow's executive order is expected to suspend the refugee resettlement program, cut FY2017 refugee admissions to 50,000, temporarily block entry of people from many Muslim countries, and fundamentally alter the visa issuance process.

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#### **Contact:**

Michele Garnett McKenzie, Deputy Director and Director of Advocacy  
The Advocates for Human Rights  
Desk: 612-746-4685  
Cell: 612-360-3818  
Email: [mmckenzie@advrights.org](mailto:mmckenzie@advrights.org)

#### **About The Advocates for Human Rights**

For more than 30 years, The Advocates for Human Rights has promoted and protected human rights here at home and around the world. The non-profit organization, based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, documents human rights abuses, advocates on behalf of individual victims, provides free legal representation to people seeking asylum, works to prevent violence against women and girls, spearheads public policy and legal change, educates about human rights issues, and provides training and technical assistance to address and prevent human rights violations.